

Virginia Air Board  
c/o Terry Darton  
Air Permit Manager  
13901 Crown Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22193

**RECEIVED**

JAN 23 2003

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY-NRO**

Dear Air Board:

The Potomac River Generating Station has been here since 1949. It should come as no sudden surprise that it is there and it emits some particulate. Yet, there are people who would waste time and money to try to have it closed when the simple fact is that it was not forced on this community. The majority of us made a choice to live here and would do better to direct our efforts to matters we have less control over because of this distraction. More pollution is created by lazy, indifferent people and has a far more immediate impact than the possible threats posed by the emissions. Money that could be used to fight crime or improve education and healthcare or a number of other uses, have been diverted to this singularly narrow-minded goal of closing Mirant.

I am also disgusted with the City's efforts to manipulate the law to achieve their goal with methods such as zoning changes. If your political or social agenda cannot be stated openly, then it is not in the best interests of all citizens. The courts have consistently ruled in favor of Mirant despite all of the attempts to portray them as evil. They comply with the standards laid out by agencies whose job it is to monitor these issues. When everyone else agrees and you are the only one who disagrees, then it may be time to realize that you are wrong. People have demanded that Mirant upgrade its operation to control its emissions and the merged stack proposal seeks to do that.

There is room here for dialogue and cooperation. One side is already showing its willingness to engage in both. I invite the Air Pollution Control Board to join the table and work as hard as Mirant is willing to for a solution. The challenge to change was thrown out and accepted. The ball is now in your court.

Thanks,

John Powell



John Powell  
1121 Priscilla Ln  
Alexandria, VA 22308

*Ladies & Gentlemen,*

*This is ridiculous - the plant is there, it is needed, and is ready to make the changes needed to meet your requirements. Your outrageous attempts to subvert the statutes and ignore the needs of the citizens is not in keeping with your mandate. Please do the right thing.*

*J.P.*